Request from Kerala for allotment of rice instead of wheat

1693. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any request from the Kerala Government for allotment of rice instead of wheat under the centrally sponsored programmes like NREP and RLEGP; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been found possible to accede to the request of the State Government in view of limited quantity of rice being made available for the two programmes.

Crisis in mini steel plants

1694. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of mini-steel plants functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that most of these plants are facing crisis; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to help them to come out from the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Number of functioning mini steel plants State-wise is given in the attached Statement (*See* below).

(b) No report of mini steel plants facing crisis has been received recently. However, 11 mini steel plants have been closed during 1987-88 due to financial problems.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Number of functioning Mini Steel plants State-wise.

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of units
1	Andhra Pradesh	8
2	Assam	2
3	Bihar	7
4	Chandigarh	1
5	Delhi	2
6	Gujarat	5
7	Haryana	7
8	Himachal Pradesh	3
9	Karnataka	11
10	Kerala	1
11	Jammu & Kashmir	1
12	Madhya Pradesh	8
13	Maharashtra	29
14	Orissa	1
15	Pondicherry	2
16	Punjab	8
17	Rajasthan	7
18	Tamil Nadu	5
19	Uttar Pradesh	24
20	West Bengal	21
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Distribution of pulses through Public Distribution System

1695. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to distribute few varieties of pulses